

perform this duty, but the Matron pointed out that she had no machinery by which she could carry it out. Dr. Nelson said that it seemed to him that this was a point on which the Board were responsible if they had made no proper provision for sending out such notices.

At the same meeting a "round robin" from the Sisters of the Kingston Infirmary to the Board was received asking for consideration of the position they were placed in when any person could bring serious complaints against them, which were given the widest publicity and had time to sink into the public mind before they had a chance to defend themselves.

Some comment was made on the fact that this letter had appeared in the Press before presentation to the Guardians, but as a complaint received at a previous Board meeting had been made public by the Press, we must own to considerable sympathy with the Sisters in their efforts to protect their good name. When charges reflecting on officials are made, those involved should have an opportunity of appearing at the same Board meeting so that the accusation and defence may be made public at the same time. We are glad that a member of the Board has given notice of his intention to move a resolution to this effect.

The Middlesbrough Nursing Association, which is doing such good work amongst the poor in this manufacturing centre, had a busy month in September. The district nurses paid 1,252 visits, and had 47 new cases. The Association is asking for gifts of old linen and for donations to the Samaritan Fund, and donors may rest assured that under the administration of the able Lady Superintendent, Miss Purvis, such gifts will be distributed to the best advantage.

We are glad to learn that the Committee of the Coventry Nursing Institution are endeavouring to grapple with the difficult question of the nursing of "a class of people who require a trained nurse and are yet unable, through want of accommodation in their houses, or other causes, to engage the services of a resident sick nurse at the cost of two pounds per week." The Committee have now made arrangements by which a nurse can be obtained from the Institution at any time, who will pay daily visits at a certain fee, and be prepared to assist at operations or perform other offices within a nurse's province. The terms on which these services can be obtained can be learned from Miss Wing at the Institution.

The parishioners of St. Andrew's, Taunton, have presented Miss Barker—who recently left to take up work as the Superintendent of the Engel Home, Cheddar, after acting as district nurse in St. Andrew's parish for twelve years—with a purse

containing a sum of money. The presentation was made by the Vicar, the Rev. G. H. Bown, who spoke in the warmest terms of the nurse's professional competence, and of her tact and sympathy. Miss Barker briefly acknowledged the gift.

We hear from many sides of the increasing difficulty of obtaining a sufficiency of suitable nurses for workhouse nursing appointments. In our view this is inevitable, as under the present conditions many nurses hesitate to take up this branch of work, not principally, as is sometimes asserted, because of the dulness of the work, but because they hesitate to place their good name at the mercy of many Boards of Guardians, and, consequently, to imperil their future prospects.

A masseuse named Edwards recently appealed at the County of London Sessions against a sentence of one month's imprisonment in the second division with £21 costs, inflicted on her by Mr. Denman at Marlborough Street Police Court for knowingly permitting her flat—ostensibly a massage establishment—in Charing Cross Road to be used for improper purposes. The conviction was affirmed, but the sentence was reduced to a fine of £10.

We regret the reduction of the sentence, as the fact that houses ostensibly massage establishments are actually used for improper purposes has done much to bring a valuable therapeutic remedy into disrepute. It is time that the County Council enforced the registration and inspection of these houses. This would be welcomed by the proprietors of reputable institutions, and would go far to break up those to which this adjective is not applicable.

Miss Robinson, who is acting as district nurse at Oldcastle, county Meath, has notified the Guardians and the Relieving Officer that she refuses to accept 10s. for attending confinement cases in the workhouse, and will, under no conditions, act for any sum below £1. The Master said the Guardians would have to pay the sum demanded. Nothing venture, nothing have!

An excellent plan is adopted by the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow, in connection with the dispensary in West Graham Street. During last month there were 2,939 attendances, 884 of which were new cases. In 104 cases the dispensary Sisters visited the patients in their own homes in order to ensure the carrying out of the treatment prescribed, and, where necessary, they distributed nourishment. The arrangement is a novel one, but it is one which we commend to the attention of hospital committees. There are many cases which it is not necessary to admit to hospital wards which would be greatly benefited by nursing attention in their own homes.

The Board of the New Somerset Hospital, Cape Town, have appointed Miss Frances Amelia Lowrie

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)